



Testimony of
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IAMAW C.A.N.E.L. Lodge 700

Labor & Public Employees Committee
February 7, 2023

SB 938 AN ACT CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR STRIKING WORKERS

Hello Senator Kushner, Representative Sanchez, and members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee. My name is Heather Merrick. I have been an employee at Pratt & Whitney since 1988 and am a proud member of Local 700 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. In 2001 I was young, a somewhat new employee and also a very young mom. My first born was only 9 months old at the time (now an adult) and considering my very first contract vote. Scared?!?!

Even though I understood the importance of a good contract and what it meant for our future and the importance of unity and solidarity, the decision was hard, but necessary. So, we packed up a diaper bag and a stroller and hit the picket line!

It was, and continues to be a tough decision, especially for young families. To be able to have the security of unemployment benefits for striking workers would be a huge asset to our negotiating committees, our union, and in essence, working families. I urge the Committee to support this bill.

Respectfully submitted in solidarity,

Heather J. Merrick